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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Berlin)

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SUBJECT Soviet Speculations on Allied
Measures in Berlin Crisis

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1. Handke, Vice-President of the German Economic Commission, was told by SIA officials, including Koval, that the SIA is convinced that the Western Powers will not retreat from Berlin. The Soviets believe that a West Berlin city government will be created, and that eastern currency will be forbidden in West Berlin. The Soviets also believe that a state bank will be formed to issue credit in West Berlin, and that official currency exchange points will be set up for the convenience of persons with incomes earned in East Berlin to convert money at the rate of 1 to 1.
2. The Soviets believe further that supplying West Berlin industries with materials will be difficult or impossible, and that as a result West Berlin industry will be favorable to credit and supply from the East. A proposal was made to Koval by Handke that a Berlin trading association be formed to provide materials to West Berlin industry and to buy its finished products.

NORTHERN BRANCH

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